

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A tolerance ring comprising a band of resilient material having corrugated protrusions extending ~~either radially outwards in a common radial direction away from the band or radially inwards towards the axis of the band;~~ and a guide portion contiguous with, and extending axially from the band, wherein the guide portion comprises at least one guide surface inclined relative to the axis of the band ~~in the radial direction of the corrugated protrusions~~ such that the ~~a~~ free end of the guide portion is wider than the ~~defines an~~ opening of the band when the corrugated protrusions extend radially outwards, and is narrower than the opening of the band when the corrugated protrusions extend radially inwards of a size other than that defined by the band.

2. (Original) A tolerance ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle of inclination of the at least one guide surface relative to said axis is constant along the length of the guide surface.

3. (Previously presented) A tolerance ring according to claim 1, wherein the guide portion extends from the whole circumference of the band.

4. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising: [[A]] a housing having a bore therein, a shaft in the bore, and a tolerance ring according to any one of the preceding claims in which the protrusions extend radially outwards from the band, the shaft being received in the band, and the protrusions engaging the wall of the bore.

5. (Provisionally withdrawn) An apparatus comprising: a housing having a bore therein, a shaft in the bore, and a tolerance ring according to any one of the preceding claims in which the protrusions extend radially inwards from the band, the protrusions engaging the shaft and the band engaging the walls of the bore.

6. (Previously presented) A method of assembling an apparatus comprising: inserting a tolerance ring according to claim 1 in a bore in a housing, the protrusions of the tolerance ring extending radially outward, the protrusions engaging the wall of the bore when the tolerance ring is inserted into the bore; inserting an end of a shaft into the guide

portion of the tolerance ring; and moving the shaft along the axis of the band into the band, so that the band engages the shaft.

7. (Provisionally withdrawn) A method of assembling an apparatus, comprising: mounting a tolerance ring according to claim 1 on a shaft, the protrusion of the tolerance ring extending radially inward to engage the shaft; inserting the guide portion of the tolerance ring into a bore in a housing; and moving the shaft and tolerance ring axially into the bore such that the band engages the wall of the bore.

8. (Previously presented) A tolerance ring according to claim 2, wherein the guide portion extends from the whole circumference of the band.

9. (Previously presented) A method of assembling an apparatus comprising: inserting a tolerance ring according to claim 2 in a bore in a housing, the protrusions of the tolerance ring extending radially outward, the protrusions engaging the wall of the bore when the tolerance ring is inserted into the bore; inserting an end of a shaft into the guide portion of the tolerance ring; and moving the shaft along the axis of the band into the band, so that the band engages the shaft.

10. (Previously presented) A method of assembling an apparatus comprising: inserting a tolerance ring according to claim 3 in a bore in a housing, the protrusions of the tolerance ring extending radially outward, the protrusions engaging the wall of the bore when the tolerance ring is inserted into the bore; inserting an end of a shaft into the guide portion of the tolerance ring; and moving the shaft along the axis of the band into the band, so that the band engages the shaft.

11. (Provisionally withdrawn) A method of assembling an apparatus, comprising: mounting a tolerance ring according to claim 2 on a shaft, the protrusion of the tolerance ring extending radially inward to engage the shaft; inserting the guide portion of the tolerance ring into a bore in a housing; and moving the shaft and tolerance ring axially into the bore such that the band engages the wall of the bore.

12. (Provisionally withdrawn) A method of assembling an apparatus, comprising: mounting a tolerance ring according to claim 3 on a shaft, the protrusion of the tolerance ring extending radially inward to engage the shaft; inserting the guide portion of the tolerance ring into a bore in a housing; and moving the shaft and tolerance ring axially into the bore such that the band engages the wall of the bore.